

Minutes of the 26 January 2015
Special Meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners
Held at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in the Commissioners Meeting Room
Yancey County Courthouse, Burnsville, North Carolina

Present at the 26 January 2015 meeting of the Yancey County Board of Commissioners were Chairman Johnny Riddle, Commissioner Jill Austin, Commissioner Byrl Ballew, Commissioner Randy Ollis, Commissioner Jeff Whitson, County Manager Nathan Bennett, Clerk to the Board Jason Robinson, County Attorney Donny Laws, County Planner Jamie McMahan, Finance Director Lynne Hensley, and Finance Officer Brandi Burleson.

Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chairman Riddle called the meeting to order and asked the Board to approve the agenda. Commissioner Whitson made a motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Commissioner Austin. The motion to approve was unanimous. (Attachment A)

DSS Childcare Facility Discussion

The Board first heard from Department of Social Services Director Rick Tipton and Little Hands Learning Center Director Sonya Morgan. Mr. Tipton began with a review of a metal building that was brought to his attention a few months back. The building, measuring 75'x40', is being held by a builder in Florida after being built for another project in North Carolina. The costs associated with this building would be: insulation, doors and windows, completion of the interior, foundation, and finding land. According to County Manager Nathan Bennett, the County does not currently own any land that would be suitable to accommodate this type of building. Discussion followed about alternate locations for the building. The Board next heard from Mr. Randy Banks with Crowder Banks Construction, who had consulted with Mr. Tipton about this building. According to Mr. Banks, after meeting with Mr. Tipton and Building Inspector Neil McCurry concerning requirements for childcare facilities, he determined that the 75'x40' would only provide the same amount of room as the current facility. In order to make a larger area for children the building needs to have an additional 25 feet added to it. Mr. Banks could not give a rough price estimate because a lot of factors have to be considered. Discussion followed concerning possible factors and costs. It was determined that the timing was not right with the current situation of not having a site to locate the building for moving forward with the purchase of the metal building.

Organizational Overview

County Manager Nathan Bennett began by going over the organizational structure of Yancey County Government. Mr. Bennett presented the Board with an organizational chart of the different departments and agencies that Yancey County has dealings with in some kind of capacity (Attachment B). Mr. Bennett went through the functions of not only all of the county departments that are directly supervised by him but also the other agencies such as the library, the health district, and economic development commission that the county funds. Discussion followed about the outside agencies and their roles and responsibilities as it relates to county government.

Finance and Budget Update

The Board next heard from Finance Director Lynne Hensley and Finance Officer Brandi Burleson about Finance for local government. Mrs. Hensley reviewed with the Board the statutes that explain local government finance. Mrs. Hensley also reviewed the duties of a finance officer, finance director, the need for a pre-audit before purchases, and the threshold and procedures for items to be brought before the Board for a budget amendment. Mrs. Burleson next reviewed the budget process and stated that the process would soon begin again with each department head being asked to submit their budgets. Commissioner Austin asked if it would be possible for the Board to look at what each department head asks for in their budget requests. Ms. Burleson said that the Board could have input at any time during the process.

Special Projects Update

The Board next heard from Harry Buckner with McGill Associates. Mr. Buckner gave a history of the East Yancey Sewer Project for the last 20 years or so. Mr. Buckner stated that the project originally started with the Town of Burnsville but was switched to the East Yancey Water and Sewer District because money was available for unsewered communities through the Rural Center. A grant of \$3 million was secured from the Rural Center as well as \$3 million from the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Easement

acquisition was started but then stalled until 2009. Mr. Buckner also noted some problems that the project has faced. The most recent problems being a permit for crossing creeks being suspended by the Army Corp of Engineers because of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Mr. Buckner stated that all issues are being dealt with and that the project will soon be back underway and that a timeline has been established to complete the project. The first priority of the project is to complete the line work up to Hickory Springs to include Micaville Elementary School. Mr. Buckner stated that additional funding is likely going to be required to fully finish the project all the way to town. The additional funding is being sought from NCDENR and the GoldenLeaf Foundation.

The Board next heard from County Planner Jamie McMahan who gave the Board an update on the progress of the Yancey County Senior Center. He stated that a March completion date is hoped for at this time but the contractor has run into some problems related to weather and dealing with subcontractors. Discussion followed about the possible uses of the senior center and how the community could be a part of the center.

The Board was also updated by Mr. Bennett concerning Cane River Park. Mr. Bennett stated that a well was soon to be dug and that the development of the park is on schedule. Mr. Bennett further stated that the fields at Cane River Park would be ready to play on by the Spring.

County Operations and Services

County Manager Nathan Bennett next gave the Board an update on the purchase of the former United States Forest Service building on Hwy. 19E. Discussion followed concerning the use of the facility and how to best utilize it.

Future Initiatives

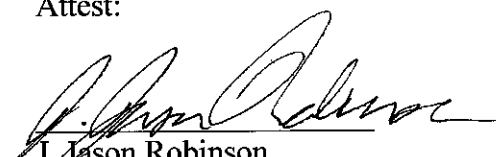
Commissioner Ollis asked County Manager Bennett for an update on Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD), a program where emergency dispatchers can guide callers through CPR and other life saving processes. Mr. Bennett stated that a timeline has been established and the program is due to be implemented by April 1st. Mr. Bennett did say that there may be some added cost associated with this because of the requirement to have two dispatchers on duty at all times.

Adjournment

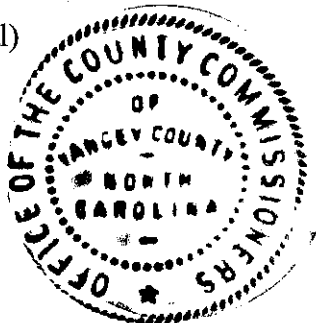
Having no further business Commissioner Ballew made a motion to adjourn and it was seconded by Commissioner Ollis. The vote to adjourn was unanimous.

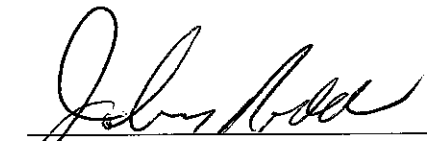
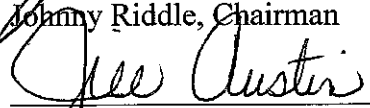
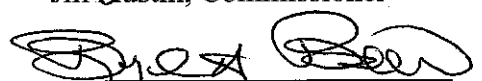
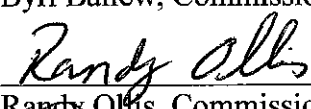
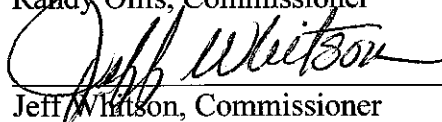
Approved and authenticated on this the _____ 9th _____ day of February 2015.

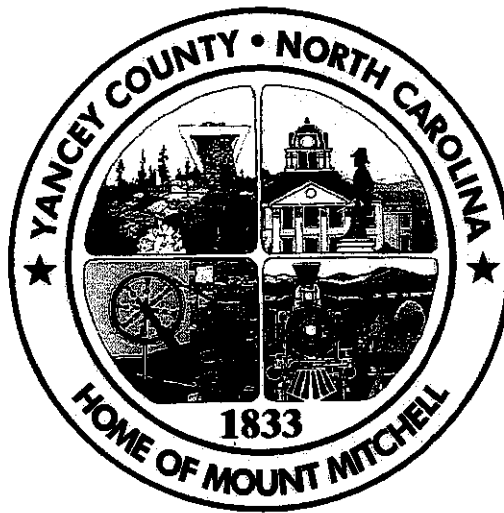
Attest:


J. Jason Robinson
Clerk to the Board

(county seal)




Johnny Riddle, Chairman

Jill Austin, Commissioner

Byrl Ballew, Commissioner

Randy Ollis, Commissioner

Jeff Whitson, Commissioner



**AGENDA
YANCEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MEETING
January 26, 2015**

- I. Call to Order - Chairman Riddle
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. DSS Childcare Facility Discussion
- IV. Finance and Budget Update
 - a. Finance Overview and Discussion
 - b. Organizational Overview
- V. Capital Project Update
 - a. East Yancey Sewer Project
 - b. Senior Center Project
 - c. Cane River Park
 - d. Old Library
- VI. Pending Issues
- VII. County Operations/Services
- VIII. Future Initiatives
- IX. General Discussion
- X. Adjourn

Attachment B

YANCEY COUNTY Organizational Chart

